

**From:** [MCCLINCY Matt](#)  
**To:** [Eric Blischke/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Chip Humphrey/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Kristine Koch/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#)  
**Cc:** [ANDERSON Jim M](#); [PARRETT Kevin](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Apparent Contamination in Willamette Cove  
**Date:** 07/26/2007 11:56 AM  
**Attachments:** [Suspect contamination map.ppt](#)  
[Suspect Contamination photo 1.JPG](#)  
[Suspect Contamination photo 2.JPG](#)

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All,

I have asked Kevin to keep me updated as to the Port of Portland's response and progress he makes working with the Port to characterize this area. Kevin felt that this is more of a local river bank/beach issue and not, for example, an expression of upland groundwater plume.

Chip and Eric, I would encourage you to add it to the list of potential in-water data gaps. If the Port argues it is not part of the upland site, we may have to come at it from the in-water direction. Kevin and I did discuss that DEQ may need to collect initial screening samples (e.g., PCBs) from the exposed area if the Port balks. The main thing is to not miss the sampling opportunity this summer/fall presented by the low river stage.

Matt

-----Original Message-----

**From:** PARRETT Kevin [mailto:Kevin.Parrett@state.or.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 26, 2007 10:06 AM  
**To:** LaFranchise, Nicole  
**Cc:** Amanda Spencer; MCCLINCY Matt  
**Subject:** Apparent Contamination in Willamette Cove

Nicole,

DEQ conducts monthly inspections along the shoreline of the McCormick & Baxter sediment cap. These inspections occasionally extend as far into Willamette Cove as we can walk before encountering steep bank, the purpose of which is to look for the presence of petroleum sheens that may result from M&B. During yesterday's inspection we discovered a substantial area of apparently contaminated soil/sediment in Willamette Cove in the vicinity of the Port of Portland's former dry docks. This area is several hundred feet down river from the petroleum removal performed in 2004 and appears to be a separate issue. The apparent contamination is located at about the Ordinary Low Water Mark and is described as:

- o Silty soil/sediment
- o Gray in color
- o Moderately strong petroleum odor
- o Generates sheen when disturbed

The silt appears to be a discrete lens or unit which peaks through the overlying sand and bank riprap at several locations during low water levels. It is unclear how far the potentially contaminated silt extends under the rip-rapped bank or into the river. These silt pockets have a somewhat spongy feel when walked upon. Attached are photos and a figure showing the location and characteristics of yesterday's observance. Since this area is only exposed during very low water levels, further characterization should be performed this summer or early fall. I'd like to schedule a time in the coming weeks when I could inspect this area with you or Amanda.

I've included Matt McClincy on this email since it is unclear whether the apparent contamination resides within the upland portion of Willamette Cove and/or the in-water portion of Portland

Harbor. You may also want to inform your counterpart on the LWG.

<<Suspect contamination map.ppt>> <<Suspect Contamination photo 1.JPG>> <<Suspect Contamination photo 2.JPG>>

*Kevin Parrett*

*Northwest Region Cleanup Section*

*Oregon Department of Environmental Quality*

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